



United States Department of Commerce  
Technology Administration  
National Institute of Standards and Technology

*NIST Special Publication 911*

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***Firefighter Thermal Exposure Workshop:  
Protective Clothing, Tactics, and Fire  
Service PPE Training Procedures  
Gaithersburg, Maryland  
June 25-26, 1996***

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## **Views of Volunteer Firefighters**

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### **I. COST**

- A. Limited Budget
- B. Difficult to Raise Money
- C. Most “Bang For Buck”
- D. Importance of Standards
  - (1) Often Forced to Buy Cheapest Available
  - (2) Need Assurance Still Safe, Meets Needs

### **II. USEFUL LIFE**

- A. Equipment Must Last as Long as Possible
  - (1) Frequently Doesn’t Wear Out
  - (2) May Not Be Used Often
  - (3) Challenge to Keep Serviceable Though Seldom Used
  - (4) Can’t Afford to Replace

### **III. CLEANING**

- A. Ease of Cleaning
  - (1) Available at Station
  - (2) Cleaning Equipment Reasonably Priced
  - (3) Specialized Cleaning Equipment Unnecessary

**B. Durability Equipment**

- (1) Withstand Repeated Cleaning

**IV. ADAPTABILITY**

**A. Structural Versus Wildland**

- (1) Can't Afford Specialized Use Equipment
- (2) Forced to Make One Item Serve More Than One Purpose

**B. Conversion**

- (1) Possibility of Converting Equipment to Multiple Uses
- (2) Speed of Conversion
- (3) Cost of Multi-use Equipment

**V. USER FRIENDLINESS**

**A. Normal Complaints**

- (1) Too Hot
- (2) Too Heavy
- (3) Sensory Deprivation

**VI. INCREASED SAFETY**

- A. Increased Safety**
- B. Better Performance**
- C. Cost Effectiveness**